

Memo: Board of Directors' meeting, 21 August 2023

GOVERNANCE

Position on the BWF Framework on allowing neutral athletes from Russia and Belarus

The Board of Directors discussed the BWF Framework and the implications in particular on tournaments played in Europe. The IOC position on the matter was understood as was the approach of BWF. The position of BEC for the time being is to remain with the decision of keeping the two Members not in good standing. BEC is committed to work within the BWF Framework in close cooperation with BWF, BEC Members and tournament organisers to manage the concept of neutral athletes in the coming period.

2024 BEC Congress in Budapest

It was confirmed that the 2024 Annual Delegates' Meeting is held on Saturday 25 May 2024 in Budapest, Hungary. The BEC Awards Gala is hosted in the evening on that same day, while the BEC Members' Forum is held the day before.

Emma Mason Zwiebler stepping down as BEC Director

For professional reasons, Emma Mason Zwiebler has decided not to seek re-election for the BEC Board of Directors and has stepped down from her position on the BWF Council. Emma has served the Board since elected in 2016, and her corporate and badminton knowledge, dedication and legal expertise will be greatly missed.

Tender for a new BEC website to be launched soon

In the beginning of September, BEC is launching a tender for interested companies to build its new website. A new look-and-feel and an optimized user interface are important aspects, and BEC is excited to initiate the process of having a new website built.

Strategic meeting towards a new Strategic Plan 2024-2027

The BEC Board will meet in Brussels, Belgium on 27-29 October to initiate discussions about a coming 4-year Strategic Plan for the Confederation. The Strategic session will be moderated by former BEC President, Gregory Verpoorten.

New procedures for travel support to BEC activities in 2024

From January 2024, BEC will initiate a new procedure for offering travel support in connection with development and event activities. The new procedure will be based on a solidarity principle where Members/officials having the biggest expenses attending activities, will be the ones receiving the biggest support. The exact procedures to be announced later.

ADMINISTRATION

Report from the office

Kathy-Karmen Kale joins the BEC office on 1 September as the new Events Officer. Kathy-Karmen comes from a role as Sports Coordinator with Badminton Estonia.

Jeroen van Dijk, former BEC Centre of Excellence (CoE) Head Coach, rejoins the BEC office on 1 September to take on the role as Development and High-Performance Manager. Before joining the CoE at its beginning in 2017, Jeroen had a similar position in the office and BEC looks forward to welcoming him back in a more administrative role.

Gaia Diakhite Becerra joined the BEC office on 1 August as its new Communication Intern. Gaia has had a busy and very promising start to her new career, working at both the European U17 Championships and World Championships.



DEVELOPMENT

Viktoria Tsvetanova appointed new Chair of the Development Committee

With Emma Mason Zwiebler stepping down from the Board of Directors at the end of her term it has been decided to appoint Viktoria Tsvetanova as the Chair of the Development Committee with immediate effect. Going into a period of defining the future strategy of BEC it was mutually agreed to make the shift now which would still allow Emma Mason Zwiebler hand over the area and to provide initial support.

ADVANCE Coach Education to continue in 2024 onwards

After a successful pilot project, BEC is proud to announce that its ADVANCE Coach Education program will continue in 2024 onwards. Educating more and better coaches is a key priority for BEC, and Members are encouraged to consider this option for educating its coaches in the years to come.

New coach at the Centre of Excellence

On 1 September 2023, the BEC CoE welcomes its new coach, Vytaute Fomkinaite (Vita). Vita has been part of the inaugural batch of coaches attending the ADVANCE Coach Education program and up until now she has worked as national coach in her home country, Lithuania. Dennis Christensen will take on the position as CoE Head Coach from 1 September.



EVENTS

Discontinuation of the European Club Championships

Following years with a growing international calendar alongside decreasing numbers of teams and top players attending the European Club Championships, the Board of Directors has approved the recommendation of the Events Committee to discontinue the event. BEC is sad to see the traditional event being discontinued, but also acknowledges the change of the international landscape for players and for potential organizers.

Regulation updates

It was approved that going forward, the seeding for the European U15 Championships will be made based on a calculated point system, rather than an overall evaluation of results.

It was approved that representation regulations for European U15 Championships and European U17 Championships are made more lenient.

It was approved that the order of play in team events where the best two teams from each group progress to the knockout stage (European Mixed Team Championships and European Men's & Women's Team Championships) is changed, so that the two highest ranked teams are not playing each other in the last group match with the risk of them having to play against each other again the day after.

Exact regulation changes will be updated and circulated to Members later.

